

1 SENATE BILL 371

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Steve Komadina

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR SCHOOL SCIENCE
12 CONTENT STANDARDS AND RULES REGARDING THE TEACHING OF THEORIES
13 OF BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS.

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
17 enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] TEACHING OF BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS.--

19 A. The department shall adopt rules that:

20 (1) give teachers the right and freedom, when
21 a theory of biological origins is taught, to objectively inform
22 students of scientific information relevant to the strengths
23 and weaknesses of that theory and protect teachers from
24 reassignment, termination, discipline or other discrimination
25 for doing so; and

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1 (2) encourage students to critically analyze
2 scientific information, give them the right and freedom to
3 reach their own conclusions about biological origins and
4 provide that no student shall be penalized in any way because
5 the student subscribes to a particular position on biological
6 origins.

7 B. For purposes of this section:

8 (1) "biological origins" means the origin,
9 history and diversity of life and living organisms; and

10 (2) "scientific information" means information
11 derived from observation, experimentation and analyses
12 regarding various aspects of the material world conducted to
13 determine the nature of or principles behind the aspects being
14 studied. "Scientific information" does not include information
15 derived from religious or philosophical writings, beliefs or
16 doctrines. Scientific information may have religious or
17 philosophical implications and still be scientific in nature."

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